

LET PRIVATEERS TROLL FOR BIN LADEN

(by Larry J. Sechrest)

In the wake of the Sept. 11th attacks, a group of American businessmen has decided to enlist the profit motive to bring the perpetrators to justice. Headed by Edward Lozzi of Beverly Hills, California, the group intends to offer a bounty of \$1 billion—that's billion with a "b"—to any private citizens who will capture Osama bin Laden and his associates, dead or alive.

Paying private citizens to achieve military objectives seems novel but is hardly untried. Recall Ross Perot's successful use of private forces to retrieve his employees from the clutches of fundamentalist Muslims in Iran in 1979.

We are all familiar with bail bondsmen, who employ bounty hunters to catch bail-jumping fugitives. Less familiar are two U.S. companies, Military Professional Resources Inc. and Vinnell Corporation, which provide military services to governments and other organizations worldwide.

Historically, private citizens arming private ships, appropriately called "privateers," played an important role in the American Revolution. Eight hundred privateers aided the seceding colonists' cause, while the British employed 700, despite having a huge government navy.

During the War of 1812, 526 American vessels were commissioned as privateers. This was not piracy, because the privateers were licensed by their own governments and the ships were bonded to ensure that their captains followed the accepted laws of the sea, including the humane treatment of those who were taken prisoner. Congress granted privateers "letters of marque and reprisal," under the authority of Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

Originally, privateering was a method of restitution for merchants or shipowners who had been wronged by a citizen of a foreign country. Privateers captured the ships flying the flag of the wrongdoers' nation and sailed them to a friendly port, where a neutral admiralty court decided whether the seizure was just. Wrongful seizures resulted in the forfeiture of the privateers' bond to the owners of the seized ship.

If the seizure was, just, the ship and cargo were sold at auction, with the bulk of the proceeds going to the privateer's owners and crew. The crews were volunteers who shared in the profits, and the investors viewed the venture as remunerative—albeit risky.

Privateering soon evolved into a potent means of warfare. Self-interest encouraged privateers to capture as many enemy ships as possible, and to do it quickly. Were privateers successful in inflicting serious losses on the enemy? Emphatically, yes. Between 1793 and 1797, the British lost 2,266 vessels, the majority taken by French privateers.

During the War of the League of Augsburg (1689–1697) French privateers captured 3,384 English or Dutch merchant ships and 162 warships, and during the War of 1812, 1,750 British ships were subdued or destroyed by American privateers. Those American privateers struck so much fear in Britain that Lloyd's of London ceased offering maritime insurance except at ruinously high premiums. No wonder Thomas Jefferson said, "Every possible encouragement should be given to privateering in time of war."

If privateering was so successful, why has it disappeared? Precisely because it worked so well. Government naval officers resented the competitive advantage privateers possessed, and powerful nations with large government navies did not want to be challenged on the seas by smaller nations that opted for the less-costly alternative—private ships of war.

In sum, the armed forces of the U.S. government are not the only option for President Bush to defeat bin Laden, his al Qaeda network, and "every terrorist group with a global reach." The U.S. military is not necessarily even the best option.

Let's bring back the spirit of the privateers. By letting profits and justice once more go hand-in-hand, victims and their champions can have an abundance of both, rather than a paucity of either.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF NANCY FORD

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of Nancy Ford, a Tampa businesswoman whose legacy in promoting women's rights, supporting the arts and bringing our Tampa Bay community together will not soon be forgotten by the countless friends, family and admirers she has left behind.

Nancy's contributions to Tampa Bay women are immeasurable. After breaking through the glass ceiling herself, Nancy helped pave the way for other women. She helped start the Tower Club, Tampa's first private business group to admit women, and she founded the Athena Society and the Florida Women's Network—professional women's networking and leadership organizations.

Nancy's accomplishments do not end there. As Chairwoman of the Florida Gulf Symphony's board of directors, member of the Arts Council of Hillsborough County and head of the committee that negotiated a merger of the Tampa Philharmonic and the St. Petersburg Symphony, Nancy Ford played a pivotal role in shaping the development of Tampa's art society.

Nancy's devotion to her causes has left an indelible mark on Tampa Bay. Through her countless volunteer hours for local charities, her work with University of South Florida's Medical Center and her role as co-founder of the Children's Cancer Center, Nancy made a difference in our community. Nancy Ford's vision and wisdom inspire us not just to do great things but also to develop lasting institutions that will carry on her ideas and work for generations to come.

On behalf of the people of Tampa Bay, I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathies to Nancy's family.

TRIBUTE TO FERNANDO FERRER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great leader and political figure. Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer has dedicated his life to serving the community and has been recognized nationally for revitalizing the Bronx.

I have known Mr. Ferrer, or Freddy as I know him, for 30 years and have been continuously impressed by his vigor and political expertise. Freddy was elected to his first term

as borough president in 1987 with an overwhelming 87 percent of the public vote. To illustrate Freddy's outstanding leadership and how much Bronxites trust him, ten years and three terms later, he was reelected yet again with 87 percent of the public vote.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work with Freddy Ferrer throughout the years to continue and intensify the restoration of the Bronx. From the moment he took office, Freddy began implementing a new, higher set of standards by which to run the borough. These changes, such as his strict code of ethics for his staff, have made it easier to make necessary changes throughout the Bronx.

Among Freddy's long list of accomplishments, he led the Bronx to winning the prestigious National Civic League's All-American City Award in 1997 and the Crown Community Award presented by American City and County magazine in 1999. The New York State Department of Health statistics show that between 1995 and 1999, 4,110 fewer individuals were unemployed. During that period, the number of AIDS cases in the Bronx dropped by nearly 50%, and homicides decreased by roughly 23 percent. Since 1990, the Bronx has received 2.5 billion dollars worth of new construction. From new businesses to new housing developments, Bronx residents have been able to witness their community grow before their very eyes. Freddy orchestrated the nation's most comprehensive housing revival when nearly 64,000 new and rehabilitated residences became available in the Bronx. This surge of structural progress and the resurgence of local businesses have been pivotal in rejuvenating the spirit of the Bronx. Along with the legendary Yankee Stadium, which Freddy and myself strove to keep in the Bronx, our borough president has become an undeniable part of Bronx history.

Mr. Speaker, Freddy's roots are in the Bronx and he has not strayed from the borough. He was born there, attended primary and secondary school there, and attended the New York University at its Bronx campus. He and his distinguished wife, Aramina, raised their daughter, Carlina, in the Bronx as well. This fall, Freddy ran for New York City mayor, and in doing so, brought a new vision for all of our communities. Freddy's entire campaign, especially when he eloquently expressed his visions for the city in debates and speeches, made us all very proud.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Fernando Ferrer for over 20 years of remarkable and innovative service to the people of the Bronx.

H.R. 3280, TO LOWER THE TIME OF CONTINUOUS ACTIVE DUTY REQUIRED TO RECEIVE LEVEL I BASIC ALLOWANCE OF HOUSING

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, over 57,000 members of the Reserves and National Guard have been called to active duty. Each week the military calls up more soldiers to help in our struggle against terrorism. They leave their civilian jobs and families to help defend our country.

From the day they begin their active duty, members of the National Guard and Reserves must deal with the difficult challenge of paying their bills and extra living expenses while serving their country.

To help ease this burden, soldiers placed on active duty are entitled to a Basic Allowance of Housing, which pays for their housing costs. Soldiers receive it when they do not live on a military base. The exact amount depends on grade, dependency status, and geographic location.

If members of the National Guard and Reserves serve less than 140 days, they receive Level II Basic Allowance of Housing. If they serve more than 140 days, they receive Level I Basic Allowance of Housing.

Level II Basic Allowance of Housing is similar to the Level I Basic Allowance of Housing, but it does not include adjustments for expensive housing markets, such as Honolulu or New York City.

This policy hurts soldiers placed on short tours of duty in expensive housing markets. For example, an O-1 officer in Honolulu will receive \$410.70 per month under Level II. Under Level I, that same soldier would receive \$953.00.

The current law costs soldiers hundreds of dollars every month. Soldiers should not have to wait 140 days before receiving the Level I Basic Allowance of Housing.

On November 13, 2001, I introduced H.R. 3280 to correct this. It will reduce the number of active duty days required for the Level I Basic Allowance of Housing from 140 to 60 days.

We ask members of the National Guard and Reserves to serve without hesitation to defend our nation. We must ensure that all soldiers in the military are paid enough money to cover their housing costs.

I urge my colleagues to join with me and support H.R. 3280.

TRIBUTE TO CATHY MAGUIRE

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to Cathy Maguire as she completes her tenure as Chairman of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA).

Fifty-two years ago, when VICA was founded, the San Fernando Valley was a predominantly rural and agricultural area north of Los Angeles; today, the Valley is a vital part of our nation's second-largest metropolitan area—thanks in part to the leadership of VICA.

Since Cathy Maguire was elected Chairman of VICA in 1999, the Valley business commu-

nity has benefitted from having a tenacious, committed and vocal advocate with representation at all levels of government from L.A. City Hall to Capitol Hill.

Cathy Maguire has led two delegations of business leaders to our nation's capitol to meet with United States Senators, Members of Congress, Cabinet Secretaries and senior staff of both the Clintons and Bush Administrations.

VICA has taken a leadership role on Social Security reform, small business development, aviation and airports, water quality and reliability, a patient's bill of rights and telecommunications issues under the keen leadership of Cathy Maguire.

As California faced an energy crisis this year, VICA played an important role in discussing solutions with the Administration as well as with our colleagues in Congress—working to ensure that California had reliable, affordable supplies of energy.

And while our nation mourned the losses of September 11, 2001, VICA and its Chairman have worked to minimize the impacts on Southern California's economy, convening the region's first Economic Impacts Summit and advocating in Washington on behalf of an economic stimulus for local businesses impacted by the tragic events.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join us in honoring Cathy Maguire for her leadership and accomplishments as Chairman of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 30, 2001, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call number 465, on Agreeing to the Conference Report for H.R. 2299, Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations for FY 2002.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "aye" on roll call vote 465.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING DAVID PEOPLES

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, David Peoples serves as a Police Officer in the state of Ohio; and

Whereas, Mr. Peoples has been named "Police Officer of the Month" by the National Law Enforcer's Memorial Fund for his unmatched service to his community; and;

Whereas, Mr. Peoples is helpful, honest, active, hardworking and dedicated to both his department and law enforcement; and,

Whereas, Mr. Peoples has received the "Exceptional Service Medal," the "Life Saving Medal" and the "Silver Torch" for his efforts in saving and protecting the citizens of Ohio;

Therefore, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing David Peoples for his commitment and dedication to making lives better in

our area. I am honored to call him a constituent.

**HOMELAND EMERGENCY RE-
SPONSE OPERATIONS (HERO)
ACT**

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, five years ago, Tim Grimmond, the Police Chief of El Segundo, a small town in my district, came to me with a little problem called "public safety radio interoperability."

Basically, he explained, police departments are organized by city and county jurisdictions. Criminals are not.

And the radios carried by the police in El Segundo were not always compatible with the radios carried by the L.A. County sheriffs or police departments in neighboring towns like Redondo and Manhattan Beach.

As a result, law enforcement agencies pursuing a suspect couldn't talk to each other on the radio. They sometimes resorted to hand signals out car windows to communicate. Or they used a jerry-rigged system of radio-patching and multiple radios to make it work.

The problem was not with the equipment. The problem was the shortage of spectrum—the airwaves used for radio and TV.

Police and fire departments had not been allocated enough of the spectrum for their radios to be interoperable.

In response to Chief Grimmond's concerns, I introduced legislation that directed the FCC to license unused frequencies to public safety agencies. This bill became law.

The same year, Congress took another major step towards interoperability. It directed the FCC to allocate to public safety users 24 megahertz of spectrum licensed to analog television stations. Congress set a deadline of 2006 for that transition.

Unfortunately, that law also left a big loophole. It said the TV stations don't have to move to new spectrum until 85 percent of the household have a TV that can receive digital TV signals.

Currently, only 1 percent of homes in the U.S. meet that criteria.

So unless we act now, public safety agencies will *never* be able to use the spectrum that Congress promised them back in 1997.

That means * * * fire departments will continue to have problems talking at the scenes of major fires. Police and sheriff's departments chasing a suspect across city and county jurisdictions will still not be able to communicate by radio. Police officers on the beat will still worry about hitting a "dead spot" where their radios don't work because of interference or poor signal penetration.

The HERO Act that I and my colleagues, Rep. WELDON of PA, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. MORAN of VA, Mr. MCINTYRE, BALLENGER, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN are introducing here today eliminates that 85 percent threshold requirement—but only for channels 63, 64, 68 and 69, which the FCC allocated to public safety at Congress' direction in 1997.

Our bill directs the FCC to assign the frequencies Congress promised to public safety agencies *by the end of 2006*.